

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



White King / Lucky Lass Mines, Lakeview, Oregon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

May 2005

Cleanup Construction Starting at White King and Lucky Lass Mines

You are invited to a public meeting on May 18, 2005 to learn about the mine-waste cleanup beginning in mid May. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), together with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), will present a brief overview of the site and the planned work. We will answer any questions you may have.

Historic uranium mining at the White King and Lucky Lass Mines, in the Fremont National Forest, contaminated soils and ground water, and left waste rock on site. It also impacted water and sediments at the White King excavation pond. The remedial design is now complete. The selected cleanup remedy includes combining and covering the most contaminated soils from both mines, and neutralizing the acidic water in the White King pond.

Site Background

The White King/Lucky Lass site consists of two former uranium mines in south-central Oregon, some 17 miles northwest of Lakeview. The site covers about 140 acres affected by mining in the 1950s and 1960s.

The major features are water-filled excavation ponds, stockpiles—including areas where overburden and ore were dumped or spilled—Augur Creek, running beside the stockpiles, and an affected meadow. Soils, as well as surface and groundwater, are contaminated by heavy metals and radioactive components.

The main hazard posed by the mine waste is potential exposure to gamma radiation from radioactive elements. Direct contact with or swallowing contaminated soils, surface water, sediments, or groundwater could also pose a health risk.

In 1995, the area was added to EPA's National Priorities List of sites slated for long-term cleanup.

Come to a public meeting!

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

U.S. Forest Service Office

**1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR**

After a lengthy Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, the proposed cleanup plan was presented for public comment, leading to a Record of Decision late in 2001.

What's Next

Beginning later this month, EPA and its partners will oversee the consolidation and capping of contaminated soils, and continued neutralization of acidity in the White King Pond.

After removal of an overburden stockpile, wetlands will be constructed in that meadow area. The cleanup will enhance existing Augur Creek habitat and the White King pond area. Water from Augur Creek will be rerouted to develop about five acres of wetlands.

(See Contact information on back)



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*White King / Lucky Lass Mines
Cleanup to Begin
Lakeview, Oregon
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact

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Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommotadion of people with disabilities, please call Bill Adams. TTY users, please call 800-877-8339.